

The Secret Life

Matthew 6:1-4

Big Idea: Our motives in doing good matter to God; so, give for the right reason and let God reward you.

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Big Idea: Our motives in doing good matter to God; so, give for the right reason and let God reward you.

The Secret Life

1. Covert-Christians don't exist (5:16).
2. Check your motives (v. 1).
3. Take off your mask (v. 2).
4. Trust God to reward you (vv. 3-4).

1. Covert-Christians don't exist.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:16).

2. Check your motives (v. 1)

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

Three pillars of righteousness existed ...

- i. Giving to the needy.
- ii. Actively praying.
- iii. Regular fasting.

Beware: we can get really good at doing Church-ianity and never become like Christ.

Why are you doing good deeds?

- i. In order to be seen?
- ii. Because it's the right thing to do?

3. Take off your mask (v. 2)

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.”

Hypocrites!

- i. Charity was viewed as the height of piety.
- ii. They really did sound a trumpet.
- iii. They acted holy, but just wanted attention.

We're all hypocrites: "We have a kind of paranoia that everyone apart from us is breaking the moral principles that hold society together"

-Jemima Kelly

It's easy to look down at *those* hypocrites!

But what about us ...

- i. What moral principals have we made up?
- ii. Where do we need to re-align our lives with God's word?

4. Trust God to reward you (vv. 3-4).

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When (not if) you give ...

- i. Practice your generosity in secret.
- ii. Avoid the temptation of pride.
- iii. Focus on your relationship with God.

The fleeting praise of the hypocrite pales in comparison to eternal reward offered by God.